Dear Les, 9/24/77

I felt a bit rocky this morning so I used time to listen to the Lane conversation. I think it is quite valuable, will be more so in the future, and that you took precisely the right approach with him. Whether from knowledge or instinct you had the right formula for the kind of person and personality he is.

However, the tape just ran out at an interesting point. I did listen to the entire thing. (The other side, labelled Freed on Lane, is entirely blank.)

I'm not sure but I think you have a different tape recorder now thanyou did then. The one you had this week seems like a Sony TC55 or its equivalent. That is a good one.

Like most of us you like to travel light. However, based on what I've observed on the Lane tape, I urge you to consider the Sony AK3 battery-pack and electricity eliminator. I've been using one of them and for years the earlier version. Your batteries were going dead on Lane. The pack is of batteries that fit in the same space and are either recharged by the AK3 gadget or replaced by it if you are using the machine. When I got the second one the cost was about $20.00.

I think your suction cup just fell off, as has happened to me. I have several that pick up well but also prefer to fall off. I have one that sticks well but I can't find it. I'll see if I can find us a couple of good ones.

I have found a way of overcoming the low volume on the Lane tape, fortunately.

Now that Lane and Mann have had a falling out perhaps it is a good time to speak to each of them. Freed,too. And Cohen, who has fallen out with Freed and Lane both.

Lane is as big a blabber as he is a liar.

You struck the egomaniacal nerve in him, next to his biggest and most sensitive.

What becomes clear in these lies and self-justifications is that the tehfts were deliberate. Mann knew what he was doing from Freed. Lane, who has represented this all as his own work, admitted to you that it was not despite his prior and later pretenses, and that he did no King investigation. His dating of the publication of the Redditt story in 1968 is from all I know false. It was known then, known when he was there, the same time my source was there. But I've no recollection of ever seing it in print until I published Frame-Up. However, he has represented any 1968 publication as his original work, too.

I've made a few notes. I'll include a carbon.

I still think that those west-coast operatives of ripoff associates did not know about your McC piece. He has never referred to it and it is not in Codenam Toro. If the LATimes did not carry that piece this would be explained. Their missing it is not easily explained if they were aware.

Collectively these phonies have done a real disinformation job. Between that and their stealing of my part of the work and the dishonesties of NBC and Prentice-Hall I want to do something if it is possible. By the way, at Lane's press conference on the book at the National Press Club in May Oscar Collier, who was the editor at P-H, came up to me and told me he believed that had made it action-proof. They forget their sponsorship of the promos. Of course they and NBC were both on notice. I saw to that. I believe I offered P-H proofs in advance but may not have. I have the correspondence, which will establish it.

The information I had earlier, that the Mann show was to have been aired last April 4, seems to be correct from what Lane told you.

I have another Lane tape to listen to,about 10 now, plus some of his writings and stories about what he said and a few about Mann and a poor tape of Mann on ABC. Between these things and my earlier correspondence with NBC it may be possible for people to do something about NBC and its special Mann Act. That's a pun but you are of a generation that has had little cause to know of the legislated Mann Act.

Before I get back to other work National Public Radio taped and rebroadcast the Kennedy-Schweiker hearings on the CIA's behavior-control past. I have a good source on this subject and a good contact with a psychiatrist who may or may not have been part of it years ago but today regards it as an abomination. I was not able to tape the second part of those hearings. It was the day I had to be in Washington to confer with DJ on King. While the CIA types appear to have been pretty successful in making a show out of the affair it may be worth listening to the tapes if you can get them from NPR. My source should. Best,